

**To the Co-Chair Sen. Prague and Rep. Ryan and members of the Labor
Committee**

02-25-10

Testimony in support of paid sick days, SB 63:

I want you to support the paid sick days bill because too many people have no choice but to go to work sick, and no one should be in that situation.

Missing a day of work would mean getting 20% of my paycheck cut from my weekly income. I need 100% of that check to pay my bills. Why is that the workers with the lowest incomes have to sacrifice more?

For eight years I worked in the food service industry without a single paid sick day. I worked at Cavey's in Manchester, a local pizza place. Therefore when I got sick and had to take the day off I didn't get paid. So I had no other choice but to go to work sick. For example, this one time I went it and I was coughing while working and could not stay home to rest. Eventually my cold turned into bronchitis because I couldn't go to the doctor or rest to get better.

To make matters worse the owners were not accommodating at all. Not only did I have to worry about losing the money I needed to keep up with bills but I had to worry about potentially losing my job. They even ignored doctor's notes and wanted us to work anyway.

With up to 15 people in the kitchen all the time and hundreds of customers being served, it was a real danger coming into work sick. Sickneses spread really easily among coworkers, and to our customers, it's a public health issue!

There is no reason that people should have to go to work sick. Please support a bill that would give people a couple of days to deal with emergency sicknesses.

Thanks,

Diane Dalenta-Rice

28 Calvin Road

West Hartford, CT 06110